



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

May 18, 2015

Ms. Cindy Bladey, Chief
Rules, Announcements, and Directives Branch (RADB)
Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration
Mail Stop: 3WFN-06-A44MP
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJ: EPA Review and Comments
Final Generic Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FGSEIS)
License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, Supplement 53
Regarding Sequoyah Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2
CEQ No. 20150079

Dear Ms. Bladey:

Pursuant to Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA) and Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 4 reviewed the Final Generic Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FGSEIS) for the License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, Supplement 53, regarding Sequoyah Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 (SQN). We appreciate your coordination with us. The purpose of this letter is to communicate the results of the EPA's review.

The FGSEIS was prepared in response to an application submitted to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to renew the operating license for the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 (SQN) for an additional 20 years. NRC's proposed Federal action is to make a decision whether or not to renew this license. Their preliminary recommendation is that the adverse environmental impacts of license renewal for SQN are not great enough to deny the option of license renewal.

We appreciate your responses to our comments on the DGSEIS, which are included in Appendix A of this FGSEIS. We recommend that the following issues be addressed and documented further:

Climate Change: We recognize that TVA, in accordance with Executive Order 131514 (Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance), has developed a Strategic Sustainable Performance Plan that identifies the actions and measures to reach GHG emission reduction targets by 2020 for its facilities. We recommend that additional information on measures that are specifically related to operation of SQN be documented. In addition, we recommend including a discussion of

how SQN will ensure consideration of any appropriate climate adaption measures during the relicensing period.

Flooding: We recommend clarification and documentation of the status of SQN's flood re-evaluation which was requested by NRC (pages A-38 – A-39).

Seismic Hazards: Appendix A provides additional information responsive to our comment regarding seismic hazard maps. However, it is unclear how recently the seismic characterization independent of USGS characterization took place for the earthquake zone near Sequoyah. We recommend that the status of the NRC's most recent assessment of seismic hazards be clarified and documented.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this project. Please provide a copy of the Record of Decision (ROD) when it becomes available. If you have any questions, please contact Ramona McConney of my staff at 404-562-9615.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Heinz J. Mueller", with a stylized, cursive script.

Heinz J. Mueller, Chief
NEPA Program Office
Resource Conservation and Restoration Division

Cc: David Drucker, NRC